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REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.

"Objected to" claims 4, 6 and 16-20 have been rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of rejected claim 1. There were no intervening claims. "Objected to" claims 26, 30 and 31 have been rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of rejected claim 25. There were no intervening claims. Thus, these claims are in condition for allowance. Since claim 5 depends from claim 4, since claims 7-14 depend from claim 6, and since claims 27-29 depend from claim 26, these claims are similarly allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

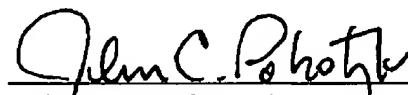
Any arguments made in this amendment pertain **only** to the specific aspects of the invention **claimed**. Any claim

amendments or cancellations, and any arguments, are made ***without prejudice to, or disclaimer of,*** the applicants' right to seek patent protection of any unclaimed (e.g., narrower, broader, different) subject matter, such as by way of a continuation or divisional patent application for example.

Since the applicants' remarks, amendments, and/or filings with respect to the Examiner's objections and/or rejections are sufficient to overcome these objections and/or rejections, the applicants' silence as to assertions by the Examiner in the Office Action and/or to certain facts or conclusions that may be implied by objections and/or rejections in the Office Action (such as, for example, whether a reference constitutes prior art, whether references have been properly combined or modified, whether dependent claims are separately patentable, etc.) is not a concession by the applicants that such assertions and/or implications are accurate, and that all requirements for an objection and/or a rejection have been met. Thus, the applicants reserve the right to analyze and dispute any such assertions and implications in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

August 5, 2009



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